

CASTOR

- **LOCAL BUDGET**
- **POTENTIAL PRODUCTION AREAS IN ZAMBIA**
- **LOCAL PRODUCTION POTENTIALS/CONSTRAINTS(i.e. in MKUSHI)**
- **MARKETING**

LOCAL BUDGET FOR CASTOR

- **Budget presented for 1Ha under medium management level, Zambian conditions.**
- **The producer price per kg of castor is quoted at K350(as at August, 1998)**
- **Table1. Input Costs, Table2. Gross Margin Budget**

TABLE 1. INPUT COSTS (1998)

Seed	K5,000/kg	Water	50000
Basal F.	28,000/kg	Labor	2000
Top F.	29,000/kg	Tractor hire	32000
Herb.	Nil	Oxen hire	40000
Insect.	33,116/kg	Combine	120000
Fungi.	11,467/kg	Fuel/rep.	25000
Insur.	0%	Trans/pack.	100

Source:MAFF (Farm Management Unit)

Table 2. Gross Margin Budget

OUTPUT	Unit		
Yield	Kg	2,000	
Output	kwacha		700,000
<u>Variable Cost</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Seed	Kg	4.5	22,500
B/fert	Pkts	1	28,000
T/fert	Pkts	1	29,000
Lime	Kg	0	0
Herbicide	Lt	0	0

Fungicide	Kg	0.3	3,440
Labor	Mday	70	140,000
Insurance	-	0	0
Tractor hire	Hrs	4	128,000
Own tractor	Hrs	0	0
Oxen hire	Hrs	0	0
Trans./pack.	Kg	2,000	200,000
Irrigat. water	mlt	0	0
Total VC			560,875
G/margin			139,125

Break-even yield	(kg)	1,602
Gm return on VC		25%
Gm return on labor		K3,988
Break-even price		K280

Source:MAFF (Farm Management Unit)

N.B. Variable costs do not include fixed costs like machinery,permanent labor, etc.

POTENTIAL PRODUCTION AREAS IN **ZAMBIA**

Zambia has three agro-ecological regions:

- Region i (extreme south, rainfall <500mm)**
- Region ii (central region, rainfall 500 to 800mm)**
- Region iii(northern part , rainfall >800mm)**

**Castor has the potential in all these regions,
variations occur only in planting time.**

**Table 3 shows variations in time of planting castor
between regions**

<u>AREA</u>	<u>PLANTING TIME</u>
Region I	Nov. to Dec.
Region ii	Mid Dec to Mid Jan
Region iii	Mid Jan to Mid Feb

Considering the production requirements for castor therefore, it can be grown in most areas of the country particularly those adopted for maize, cotton and other crops.

LOCAL PRODUCTION POTENTIALS

Castor production in Mkushi district seems to have a lot of potential attributes:

- Firstly, the area itself is good in terms of physical environment (climate, soils, etc)**
- Local producers in Mkushi generally accept the crop, i.e. social acceptability.**

- castor is quite profitable to the local farmers.
According to existing local market, producer price is K380-K400 and the break-even price is K280 per kg (Budget developed earlier) implying a profit of at least K100/kg.
- Castor has also won the heart of many at national level and currently Mt. Makulu National Research Centre is working concerned NGOs towards bringing prototype hand shellers , to ease shelling.

LOCAL PRODUCTION CONSTRAINTS

Small-scale castor farmers in Mkushi face the following constraints:

- 1. Lack of promoters, unlike other cash crops (cotton, paprika, tobacco, etc). This has led to lack of adoption by small-scale farmers.**
- 2. Farm Power, to prepare land. Mainly due to loss of cattle by many smallholders.**

3. Inputs, lack of resources to purchase fertilizer, seed, chemicals, etc.

4. Equipment to carry out the harvesting and shelling activities.

5. Communication & Marketing, poor roads especially in the rain season.

CASTOR MARKETING

LOCAL MARKETING

- There seem not to be a readily available market for castor locally.
- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) initiated an arrangement in which farmers could sell their castor seed through the Castor Growers Association.
- The whole arrangement is some form of contractual farming.

- **There is no castor processing industry in Zambia as the crop is assumed to be quite new in its promotion.**
- **To ease marketing and other logistics farmers can willingly be members of the Castor Growers Association of Zambia(an affiliate of ZNFU)**

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

- Castor is currently fetching an average of over US\$900/ton, with the value of unprocessed castor seed being around US\$240/ton.

Some of the international buyers of castor seed

1. Jayant Oil Mills-The world's largest exporter of castor oil, derivatives, oleo-chemicals, solvents, castor meal.

Jayant is also the largest buyer of castor bean.

The group is also actively engaged in developing and distributing hybrid variety seed.

2.Indo Export Dyechem LTD- One of the largest manufacturer and exporter of castor hence also a large buyer of castor bean.

The organization is committed in on-going research, it also offers comparatively priced high quality products that fulfill the customers' requirements.